National waterways

497. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop two new national waterways in West Bengal-Orissa and Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to prepare a road map for an integrated transport to include inland water transport, coastal shipping, civil aviation, road transport and highways for enabling better inter-connectivity among multi-modes of transport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal to declare Kakinada-Puducherry stretch of canals consisting of Kakinada canal, Eluru canal, Commannur canal, Buckingham canal and Kaluvelly tank along with Bhadrachalam—Rajahmundry stretch of River Godavari and Wazirabad—Viyayawada stretch of River Krishna (1095 kms.) as a National Waterway is under consideration of the Govt. This Waterway System is in the States of Andhra Pradesh, and Tamilnadu and Union Territory of Puducherry. The Bill for enacting Central Legislation was introduced on 08.12.2006. It was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture for examination. The Parliamentary Standing Committee has recently submitted its report. Follow up action is being taken. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 542 cr. (at 2002 prices).

Similarly, a proposal to declare Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal (217 km.) along with Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of Matai river (40 km), Talcher-Dhamra stretch of River Brahmani (265 km.) and Mangalgadi-Paradip stretch of Mahanadi delta rivers (101 km.) in the States of West Bengal and Orissa as a National Waterway is also under consideration of the Government. The bill for enacting Central legislation for this waterway was introduced in the Parliament on 08.12.2006. It was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture for examination. The Parliamentary Standing Committee has recently submitted its report. Follow up action is being taken. The total estimated cost of this project is Rs. 1526 cr. (at 2002 prices).

(c) and (d) Planning Commission has entrusted Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) with the task of conducting a total Transport System Study with a view to generating and analysing inter-modal transport resource costs and traffic flows, covering the four major mechanized modes of transport—Railways, Highways, Airways and Shipping and determining an optimal inter-modal mix and allocation of transport investment.

Development of Maritime Sector in Orissa

498. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa propose to set up Orissa Maritime Board to plan, direct and implement maritime development in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Centre to help the State to develop their maritime sector to make the ports in Orissa to handle a good amount of cargo?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is one Major Port in the State of Orissa namely Paradip Port which is under control of the Central Government. Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP), a total of 28 projects involving an investment of Rs. 2403 crores have been identified to be taken up for implementation by the Paradip Port Trust over the period upto 2011-12. Non-major ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. It has been reported by the Government of Orissa that draft Orissa Maritime Board Bill is under preparation.

Completion of NH-43 in KBK region

499. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of completion of NH-43 stretch of road passing through the KBK region in Orissa;

(b) whether this stretch is in a precarious condition in that it is full of pot-holes and breaches caused by rains and the stretch has become accident prone; and

(c) if so, the action plan of the Centre to expedite completion of the above stretch of the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The length of NH-43 in Orissa, entirely falling in KBK region is 156.542 km. This comprises 104.655 km. of two lane width, 19 km. of intermediate lane width and remaining 32.887 km. of single lane width. The widening works to double lane width are at different stages of implementation in a length of 21.287 km.

(b) There were no breaches during the current year rains and the potholes occurred have been rectified. The road is in traffic worthy condition.

(c) The development & maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. Based on inter-se-priority and availability of funds, the improvement works will be taken up in phases through Annual Plans.

Safety from Tsunami due to Ramsetu

†500. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the coasts of Tamil Nadu remained safe from Tsunami waves due to Ramsetu;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.